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(54) Non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell

(57) A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell is disclosed wherein the irreversible capacity degradation which is caused under charging conditions is controlled. The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell includes a positive electrode capable to dope and dedope lithium, a negative electrode and an electrolyte which is dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent. The organic, non-aqueous solvent comprises from 0.005 M to 0.9 M of at least one monomethoxy benzene (anisole) or halogenated monomethoxy benzene compound (halogenated anisoles) with 1 to 4 halogen substituents.

Preferred halogens are F, Cl and Br. Preferred examples of the organic co-solvent used in accordance with the instant invention are:

Anisole
4-Fluoro-anisole,
4-Bromo-anisole,
4-Chloro-anisole,
2,4-Difluoro-anisole,
2,4-Dibromo-anisole,
2,4-Dichloro-anisole,
2,3,5,6-Tetrafluoro-anisole and
4-Chloro-2-Fluoro-anisole.

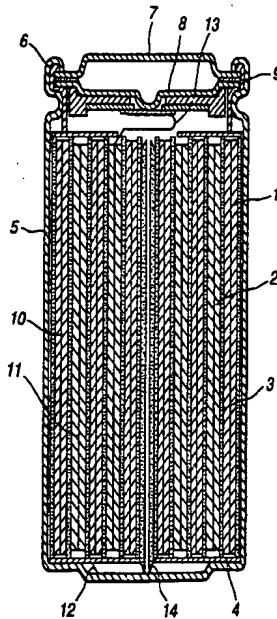


FIG.3

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Description**BACK GROUND OF THE INVENTION**5 **1. Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell, particularly, to improvement of a non-aqueous solvent.

10 **2. Description of Prior Art**

A small-sized and light electronic instruments have been realized by the progress of recent remarkable electronic technology. With the progress, it has been demanded to make a cell small and light and making energy density high to the cell as a portable electric source more and more.

15 Conventionally, aqueous cells including a lead, a nickel and cadmium cell and so on are the main current as secondary cells for a general use. Though these aqueous secondary cells are satisfied in a cycle characteristic to some extent, the characteristic is not satisfied in weight of the cell and the energy density.

20 On one hand, recently, a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell that lithium or lithium alloy are used for a negative electrode has been popularly studied and developed. This cell has the high energy density by using compounds oxide including Li such as LiCoO_2 as a positive electrode, and has superior characteristics that self-discharging is a little and weight is light.

25 However, in the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell that Li or Li alloys are used for the negative electrode, with progress of a charging/discharging cycle, lithium grows up a dendrite crystal, it reaches the positive electrode and an inner short might occur. Further, as the dendrite crystal is promoted to be created, there is a problem that it is impossible to practically and rapidly charge and discharge. For this reason, it is hard to make the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell that Li or alloys of Li are used for the negative electrode practicable.

30 In order to resolve the problems, the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell (the lithium ion secondary cell) of a so-called rocking chair type that layer compounds of oxides and carbons and so on in which lithium ions are taken are used for negative material is noticed.

35 In this non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell, it is used for reaction of the negative electrode that lithium is doped /dedoped between layers of these layer compounds, even if the charging/discharging cycle is progressed, dendritic deposition is not recognized and the good charging/discharging cycle is shown.

40 Though each kind of carbon materials possible to be used for the negative material of the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell is given, the carbon materials that have been made practicable as the negative materials at first are graphitization retardant carbon materials, that is, low crystalline carbon materials obtained by executing thermal treatment to organic materials at comparative low temperature. The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell that the negative electrode formed by those graphitization retardant carbon materials is combined with electrolyte that propylene carbonate (PC) is the main solvent has been already produced.

45 Further, recently, it has been also possible to use the kinds of graphites that crystal structure has been developed. In case of kinds of graphites, as PC used for the main solvent is resolved, it was a problem that the kinds of graphites are the negative electrode materials. However, the problem has been dissolved by making ethylene carbonate (EC) which is very stable the main solvent and it has been possible to use them as the negative materials.

50 It is possible to obtain comparatively easily the kinds of scaly graphites, and they has been widely used as conductive agent for alkali cells and so on as usual. These kinds of graphites is highly crystalline and have high actual density comparing to graphitization retardant carbon materials. Therefore, if the negative electrode is formed by the kinds of graphites, it is possible to obtain high electrode charging characteristic and energy density of the cell is advanced. Therefore, the kinds of graphites are the materials which are largely expected as the negative electrode material.

OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

55 In a lithium ion secondary cell, the following potential state is caused by charging.

That is, as a positive material, compounds oxide including Li that LiCoO_2 is representative as above mentioned are used. In compounds oxide including Li, Li ions are taken out in charging, potential becomes the high potential of about 4.2 V. On one hand, in the carbon material of the negative electrode material, the Li ions are doped and the potential approaches the potential of Li metal.

Therefore, in this cell, a positive electrode is very easily to be oxidized and a negative electrode is very easily reduced. When the cell is preserved under the condition of charging, some irreversible reaction occurs in the electrodes during charging, and there is a problem that capacity degradation which is not recovered is caused.

The present invention is proposed considering the conventional actual situation, and an object of the present invention is to provide a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell that it is possible to control the irreversible capacity degradation which is caused when it is preserved under the condition of charging.

5 The inventors of the present invention examined in earnest in order to achieve the object as above mentioned, as a result, we knew that it is possible to control the capacity degradation due to the irreversible reaction caused when preserved under the condition of charging by adding monothoxy benzene class compounds of specific condensation to electrolyte.

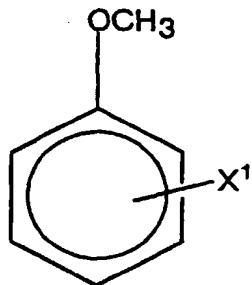
10 The non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to the present invention has been completed based on such knowledge, and the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell is characterized by having a negative electrode that it is possible to dope/dedope lithium and a positive electrode and a non-aqueous electrolyte that electrolyte is dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent, wherein at least any of monotoxy benzene or monotoxy benzene class compounds shown by Chemical Formulas 4, 5 and 6 are added to the non-aqueous electrolyte as above mentioned at condensation from 0.005 to 0.9 M.

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[Chemical Formula 4]

20

25



(Where, X¹ is a halogen element.)

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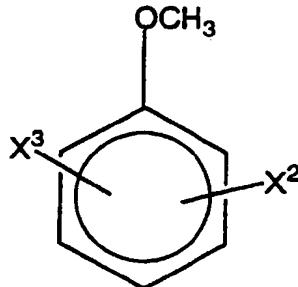
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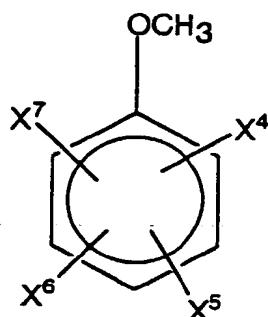
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[Chemical Formula 5]



[Chemical Formula 6]



In the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell, the positive electrode is more than 4V under the condition of charging, it is the high potential, the negative electrode approaches to a lithium cell and both of them are under the condition of occurring irreversible reaction.

40 Then, when monotoxy benzene or the monotoxy benzene class compounds into which halogen elements are introduced shown by Chemical Formulas 3 and 4 are added to the non-aqueous electrolyte, the irreversible reaction of the positive and the negative electrode is controlled and capacity degradation that a cell is not recovered is prevented.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

45 Fig. 1 is a schematic view showing an example of a form of a particle of graphite.
 Fig. 2 is a schematic view showing another example of a form of a particle of graphite.
 Fig. 3 is a longitudinal cross section showing a structural example of a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to the present invention.
 50 Fig. 4 is a characteristic view showing relation between addition and capacity of monomethoxy benzen class compounds.
 Fig. 5 is a characteristic view showing relation between addition and charging/discharging efficiency of monomethoxy benzen class compounds.
 55 Fig. 6 is a characteristic view showing relation between addition and maintenance factor of a monomethoxy benzen class compounds.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

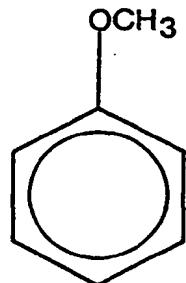
Specific embodiments of the present invention will be described.

5 A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to the present invention includes a positive electrode that is possible to dope and dedope lithium and a negative electrode and non-aqueous electrolyte that electrolyte is dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent.

In the present invention, monomethoxy benzene shown by Chemical Formula 7 or the monomethoxy benzene class compounds into which halogen elements as shown by Chemical Formulas 8, 9 and 10 are introduced are added to the non-aqueous electrolyte of the non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell.

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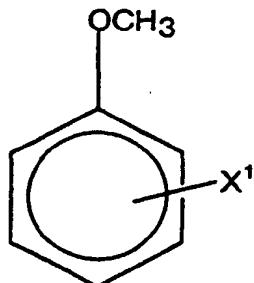
[Chemical Formula 7]



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[Chemical Formula 8]



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(Where, X1 is a halogen element.)

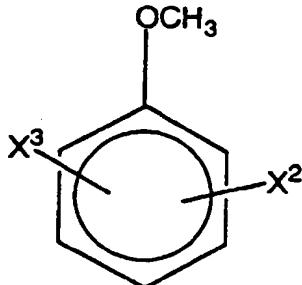
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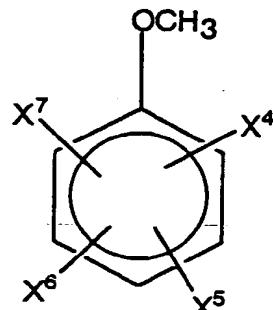
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[Chemical Formula 9]



15 (Where, X² and X³ are halogen elements.)

[Chemical Formula 10]



35 (Where, X⁴, X⁵, X⁶ and X⁷ are halogen elements.)

When the monomethoxy benzene class compounds as above mentioned are added to the non-aqueous electrolyte, irreversible reactions of the positive and the negative electrode caused in preserving under the condition of charging are controlled and capacity degrading which is not recovered is prevented.

40 In this additive, it is important that the number of methoxy groups introduced into a benzene ring is one. When more than two methoxy groups are introduced into the benzene ring, a molecule becomes large and the characteristic as the electrolyte such as ion conductivity is spoiled. Further, the effectiveness for controlling capacity degrading is not enough.

45 In the monomethoxy benzene class compounds shown by Chemical Formulas 8, 9 and 10, halogen elements X are Cl, Br, F and so on. F is the most preferable of them and next Br is preferable. Positions into which halogen elements X are introduced are not particularly limited.

Further, only one monomethoxy benzene class compound and combination of plural kinds of monomethoxy benzene class compounds may be used.

50 Though proper addition of the monomethoxy benzene class compounds depend on kinds of compounds, it is preferably from 0.005 to 0.5 M, more preferably, from 0.005 to 0.9 M. When the addition is too small, it is impossible to obtain sufficiently the effectiveness for controlling the capacity degradation. Further, when the addition is too large, conductivity of the electrolyte drops and particularly the characteristic at low temperature is spoiled.

55 Though the monomethoxy benzene class compounds are added to the electrolyte according the present invention, it is possible to use any other compositions of the electrolyte usually used in this kind of non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell.

As the non-aqueous solvent, it is preferable to use the solvent such as ethylene carbonate that permittivity is comparatively high is used as the main solvent and the solvents that plural solvents of low viscosity are added are used.

As the high permittivity solvents, it is possible to use propylene carbonate (PC), butylene carbonate (BC), vinylene

carbonate (VC), sulfolalanate, butyrolactonate, valerolactonate and so on as well as ethylene carbonate (EC).

As the low viscosity solvents, it is possible to use symmetrical chain carbonic esters including diethyl carbonate and dimethyl carbonate and so on, asymmetrical chain carbonic esters including methyl ethyl carbonate, methyl propyl carbonate and so on, carboxylic esters including methyl propionate, ethyl propionate and so on, phosphoric esters including trimethyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate and so on. Only one kind or combinations of more than two kinds of them may be used.

However, as it is hard to resolve by graphite comparatively other solvent of high permittivity in case of using the graphite material as the negative electrode, it is preferable to use ethylene carbonate or a compound that a hydrogen atom of ethylene carbonate is substituted by halogen as the main solvent.

Even if reactive to graphite as propylene carbonate, it is possible to use if adding as ethylene carbonate or halogenide of ethylene carbonate is the main solvent and things that a part of them is substituted are second component solvents. Particularly, the compound of monomethoxy benzene class compounds are added to the electrolyte and it acts to control reaction between the graphite material and the solvent, therefore, it is possible to set comparatively more addition of propylene carbonate.

As things used for the second component solvents, it is preferable to use butylene carbonate, vinylene carbonate, 1, 2-dimethoxy ethane, 1, 2-dimethoxy methane, γ -butyrolacton, valeolactone, tetrahydrofuran, 2-methyltetrahydrofuran, 1, 3-dioxolan, 4-methyl-1, 3-dioxolan, sulforan, methylsulforan and so on as well as propylene carbonate. It is preferable to use the carbonic ester class solvents of propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, vinylene carbonate and so on. It is preferable that the addition of them is from 20 to 40 vol%.

As electrolyte salts which are dissolved in the non-aqueous solvents, it is possible to use any used for this kind of cell. Specifically, LiPF_6 , LiClO_4 , LiAsF_6 , LiBF_4 , $\text{LiB}(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_4$, $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_3\text{Li}$, $\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_3\text{Li}$, $\text{LiN}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_2$, $\text{LiC}(\text{CF}_3\text{SO}_2)_3$, LiCl , LiBr and so on are given. It is possible to use only a kind of these salts and plural kinds of these salts. In case of use them in combination, it is preferable that LiPF_6 is the main component.

On one hand, it is possible to use the following things as the negative and the positive electrode of the cell.

First, as the negative electrode materials, the carbon materials that are possible to dope or dedope lithium ions and crystalline or non-crystalline metallic chalcogenized compounds.

As the carbon material of them, it is possible to the carbon material easy to graphitize, the non-graphitizable carbon material and graphite material.

As the non-graphitizable carbon material, the material having material parameters that the (002) surface interval is more than 0.37 nm, the actual density is less than 1.70 g/cm³ and an exothermic peak is not higher than 700°C in the differential thermal analysis (DTA) in a current of air is preferable.

The non-graphitizable carbon material as above mentioned is obtained by executing heat treatment at the temperature of 1000°C to an organic material.

As the representative of original materials, the homopolymer and the copolymer of furfuryl alcohol and furfural, or furan resin copolymerized with other resin and so on are given.

Further, it is possible to use conjugated phenol resin, acrylic resin, vinyl resin halide, polyimide resin, polyamide-imide resin, polyamide resin, polyacetylene, conjugated system resin of poly (p-phenylene) and so on, cellulose, derivative of the cellulose, and arbitrary organic high molecular compounds.

The thing that a functional group including oxygen is introduced (a so-called oxygen bridge) into an oil pitch having the specific H/C atomic ratio, similarly to the furan resin as above mentioned, is not melted in the process for carbonizing (higher than 400°C) and becomes finally the non-graphitizable carbon material at the solid phase state.

The oil pitch is obtained by processes of distillation (vacuum, atmospheric and steam distillation), thermal polymerization/condensation, extraction, chemical polymerization/condensation and so on from kinds of tar obtained by high temperature thermal decomposition of coal tar, ethylene bottom oil, crude oil and so on and asphalt. Then, the H/C atomic ratio of the oil pitch is important and it is necessary that the H/C atomic ratio is from 0.6 to 0.8 for making the non-graphitizable carbon material.

Though specific means for forming the oxygen bridge to these pitches are not limited, for example, the wet process by aqueous solutions such as nitric acid, mixed acid, sulfuric acid and hypochlorous acid, or the dry process by oxidizing gas (air, oxygen), further, reaction by solid reagents such as sulfur, ammonium nitrate, ammonia persulfate and iron chloid (II) are used.

Though this content rate of oxygen is not limited, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 3-252053, more than 3% is preferable, further more than 5 % is more preferable. This content rate of oxygen has an effect on the structure of the carbon material finally produced, when the content rate of oxygen is within this range, it has the material parameters that the (002) surface interval as above mentioned is longer than 0.37 nm and there is no the exothermic peak at higher than 700°C in the differential thermal analysis (DTA) in a current of air, therefore, the capacity of the negative electrode is advanced.

The original raw materials are not limited to them, and it is possible to use any other organic materials, that is, any materials that become the non-graphitizable carbon material through the solid phase carbonizing process by the oxy-

gen bridge treatment and so on.

Further, not only the non-graphitizable carbon material that the organic materials as above mentioned are original raw materials but also the compounds that phosphorus, oxygen and carbon are the main components as disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 3-137010 show the same material parameters as those of the non-graphitizable carbon material, and are preferable as the material of the negative electrode.

Though the non-graphitizable carbon material is obtained by carbonizing by burning the organic material as above mentioned and so on, it is preferable to burn according to the following process.

That is, in order to compose the non-graphitizable carbon material, after carbonizing the organic raw material at the temperature from 300°C to 700°C, burning is executed under the condition that temperature up speed is from 1°C to 100°C per minute, arrival temperature is from 900°C to 1300°C and retention time at the arrival temperature is from 0 to 300 hours. The carbonizing process may be omitted depending on the case. Though a sintered body obtained as above mentioned, after that, is grinded, classified and provided to the negative electrode, the grinding may be executed before or after carbonization, calcination and thermal treatment at high temperature, and during the temperature up process.

Next, as the graphite material, it is preferable that the actual density is more than 2.1 g/cm³, more preferable, more than 2.18 g/cm³. In order to obtain such actual density, the (002) surface interval measured by the X-ray diffraction method is preferably less than 0.340 nm, more preferably, 0.335 nm and less than 0.337 nm and it is necessary that thickness of C axis crystallite of the (002) surface is more than 14.0 nm.

Further, in the graphite material, characteristics such as volume density, mean form parameter x ave, specific surface area, distribution of degrees of grains and destructive strength of particle as well as the actual density and the parameters of the structure of crystals are important. These characteristics will be described as follows.

First, the volume density is measured according to the method described in JIS K-1469. The measuring method will be described as follows.

25 <Method for measuring volume density>

Incline a graduated measuring cylinder mass of which has been previously measured and volume of which is 100 cm³, and enter gradually sample powders of 100 cm³ into it by using a spoon. Measure the whole mass by 0.1 g of the minimum scale and find the mass M of the sample powders by subtracting the mass of the graduated measuring cylinder from the mass of it.

Next, cork the graduated measuring cylinder into which the sample powders are entered, and drop the graduated measuring cylinder from the height of about 5 cm to a rubber plate 50 times. As a result, as the sample powders in the graduated measuring cylinder are compressed, read the volume V of the compressed sample powders. Calculate volume specific gravity (g/cm³) by the following expression 1.

$$35 \quad D = M/V \quad \text{Expression 1}$$

D : Volume Specific Gravity (g/cm³)

M : Mass (g) of sample powders in a graduated measuring cylinder

40 V : Volume of sample powders in a graduated measuring cylinder after dropping 50 times

It is preferable that the graphite material the volume density of which is more than 0.4 g/cm³ is used. As the form of the graphite is like scaly, it is easy to come off and it causes to shorten cycle life. However, if the volume density of the graphite material is more than 0.4 g/cm³, it is possible to control come off and the cycle life is advanced. The more preferable range of the volume density is more than 0.5 g/cm³, further, more than 0.6 g/cm³.

45 Next, the mean form parameter x ave is found as follows.

<Mean Form Parameter x ave : SEM Method>

50 That is, the representative particle form of the graphite material is a flat column or a rectangular parallelepiped as shown in a schematic view in Fig. 1 or 2. When the thickness of the thinnest part of the particle of the graphite is T, the longest length in the direction of a major axis is L and the length in the direction at right angles to the major axis corresponding to depth is W, the product of the values that L and W are divided by T respectively is the form parameter x as above mentioned. The smaller the form parameter x is, the higher the height to a bottom area is and the smaller the degree of flattening is.

$$55 \quad x = (L/T) \times (W/T) \quad \text{Expression 2}$$

x : Form Parameter

T : Thickness of the thinnest part of powder

L : Length in the direction of a major axis of the powder

W : Length in the direction at right angle to the major axis of the powder

5 In order to measure the form parameter x about the actual graphite powder, observe the form of the graphite powder by using SEM (a scanning type electronic microscope), and choose ten grains that the length of the longest part is $\pm 30\%$ of the mean grain size. Calculate the form parameters of ten chosen grains by using Expression 2 respectively, and the mean of them. The calculated mean value is the mean form parameter x ave.

10 It is preferable that the mean form parameter x ave is less than 125. Using the graphite powder of low degree of flattening that the mean form parameter x ave is less than 125, the structure of the electrode is advanced and it is hard to come off the graphite powder. Therefore, the cycle life is furthermore advanced. The preferable range of the mean form parameter x ave is from 2 to 115, more preferably, from 2 to 100.

15 Next, the specific surface area of the graphite powder is found by the nitrogen absorbing BET method, and is preferably less than 9 m²/g. The cycle life of the cell is further improved by that the volume density and the mean form parameter x ave satisfy the condition as above mentioned and by using the graphite powder that the specific surface area of it is less than 9 m²/g.

20 Controlling of the specific surface area has an effect on the cycle life of the cell because the specific surface area corresponds to adhesion of a corpuscle to the graphite powder.

25 Namely, there are many cases that the corpuscles order of sizes of which is approximately sub micron are adhered to the graphite powder, therefore it is considered that adhesion of the corpuscles causes of low volume density of the graphite material. Therefore, it is preferable that the adhesion of the corpuscles to the graphite powder is as few as possible.

On one hand, if degree of grain is the same, the more the corpuscles adhere, the larger the specific surface area 25 of the graphite powder is, on the contrary, the less the corpuscles adhere, the smaller the specific surface area of the graphite powder is. That is, that the specific surface area is controlled to less than 9 m²/g means that the adhesion of the corpuscles is very few, therefore, the high volume density and the long cycle life is obtained. The specific surface area is preferably less than 7 m²/g, more preferably, less than 5 m²/g.

30 The degrees of grains of the graphite powder is optimized by accumulation 10 grain size %, accumulation 50 grain size %, and accumulation 90 grain size % found by the distribution view of the degrees of grains. The accumulation 10 grain size %, the accumulation 50 grain size %, and the accumulation 90 grain size % mean the grain sizes when the area integrated from 0 μm becomes 10%, 50% and 90% of the whole area in the distribution view of degrees of grains.

35 It is preferable that the accumulation 10 grain size % is larger than 3 μm , the accumulation 50 grain size % is larger than 10 μm , and the accumulation 90 grain size % is larger than 70 μm because of the following reason.

40 That is, in case of considering electrode filling characteristic, the distribution of degrees of grains of the graphite powder is the distribution that is wide in the direction of the horizontal axis (the grain size), particularly, it is possible to obtain high filling efficiency when the distribution is the normal distribution, and it is preferable.

45 However, heat might be generated in the cell in case of abnormal situation such as overcharging and so on, when the distribution volume of the graphite powder including the small sized grains is large in this case, the heat generating temperature tends to high.

On one hand, as a helium ions is inserted into the graphite layers in charging the cell, the crystallite is expanded by about 10 %. The positive electrode and a separator are compressed by this expansion, and trouble at the beginning such as an inner short is easy to occur in charging at the first time. The larger the distribution volume of the graphite powder including the large sized grains is, the more remarkable the badness due to such expansion is.

50 That is, in the graphite powder, even if there are too many small sized grains or even if there are too many large sized grains, it is inconvenient and it is preferable that from the small to the large sized grains are balancedly combined.

The ranges of the accumulation 10, 50 and 90 grain size % as above mentioned are set considering these points, and the graphite powder satisfying this are balancedly combined from the small to the large sized grains. Therefore, it is control to generate heat in the cell in overcharging and so on, badness at the beginning is reduced and high reliability is secured. The accumulation 90 grain size % of them is preferably less than 60 μm from a viewpoint of preventing the badness at the beginning.

55 It is possible to measure the grain sizes and the number of grains, for example, by diffusion of laser beam by using a micro track grain size analyzer.

Next, destructive strength of the graphite powder is measured as follows.

55 (Method for measuring mean grain destructive strength)

Measuring of destructive strength is executed by using a Shimazu Minute Compression Test Apparatus (made by

Shimazu Seisakusho Co., Ltd. The Product Name is MCTM-500)

First, observe the graphite powder by an additional optical microscope, and choose 10 grains that the length of the longest part is from $\pm 10\%$ of the mean grain size. Multiply load to 10 chosen grains respectively, measure the destructive strength and calculate the mean value of them. The calculated mean value is the mean grain destructive strength of the graphite powder.

In order to obtain sufficient heavy loading characteristic as a cell used practically, it is preferable that the mean grain destructive strength of the graphite powder is more than 6.0 kgf/mm^2 . There is the following relation between the destructive strength and the loading characteristic.

First, the loading characteristic depends on easiness of moving of ions in discharging.

Here, when there are a lot of holes in the electrode material, electrolyte is easy to be impregnated in the electrode, therefore, the ions are easy to be moved and it is possible to obtain the good loading characteristic. As the ions are hard to be moved when there are few holes in the electrode material, the loading characteristic is inferior.

On one hand, in the high crystalline graphite material, hexagonal net surfaces of the graphite are developed in the direction of the crystal along the a axis, and crystallites in the direction of the C axis are formed by accumulation of them. Combination of hexagonal net surfaces of carbon is the weak combination named van der Waals force and it is easy to deform by stress. Therefore, the graphite material is easy to be crushed in filling it into the electrode by compression molding and it is hard to secure the holes.

The destructive strength as above mentioned is an index that the holes are hard to be crushed. If the graphite material that the destructive strength is more than 6.0 kg/mm^2 is chosen, the holes are secured and it is possible to the good loading characteristic.

Though the graphite material having property of matter as above mentioned is chosen and used, this graphite material may be both the natural graphite and the artificial graphite which is obtained by carbonizing the organic material and treating at high temperature.

In producing the artificial graphite, coal and pitch are representative as the organic material which is the original material.

Some pitch is obtained by distilling (vacuum distillation, atmospheric distillation, and steam distillation), thermally polymerizing/condensing, extracting, chemically polymerizing/condensing and so on coal tar, ethylene bottom oil, kinds of tar obtained by thermally decomposing crude oil and so on at high temperature and asphalt and so on, and other is obtained in making reflux of lumber.

Further, as the original materials for the pitch, there are polyvinyl chloride resin, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl butyrate, 3, 5-dimethyl phenol resin and so on.

These coal and pitch is liquid at the maximum temperature of about 400°C during carbonizing, by maintaining at the temperature, aromatic rings are condensed each other, made polycyclic, accumulated and oriented, then, at the temperature higher than about 500°C , a precursor of solid carbon, that is, semicoke is made. Such process is called the liquid phase carbonizing process and is the representative producing process for graphitizing easily carbon.

Further, it is also possible to use condensed polycyclic hydrocarbon compounds of napthalene, phenanthrene, anthracene, triphenylene, pyrene, perylene, tenthaphene, pentacene and so on, other derivatives (for example, carboxylic acid, carboxylic anhydride, carboxylic imide and so on of them), or mixture, condensed heterocyclic compounds of acenaphthylene, indole, isoindole, quinoline, isoquinoline, quinoxaline, phthaladine, carbazole, acrazine, phenazine, phenanthrolyzine and so on, and derivatives of them as raw materials.

In order to making the artificial graphite as the organic materials as above mentioned are the original materials, for example, the organic materials as above mentioned are carbonized in a current of an inert gas such as nitrogen at the temperature from 300°C to 700°C , after that, are calcined under the conditions that temperature up speed is from 1°C to 100°C per minute, arrival temperature is from 900°C to 1500°C , and maintaining time at the arrival temperature is from 0 to 30 hours in the current of inert gas, further, are thermally treated at the temperature higher than 2000°C , more preferably, 2500°C . It is needless that carbonization and calcination may be omitted depending on cases.

Though the graphite material made as above mentioned is classified, or crushed/classified, and provided to the negative electrode material, crushing may be executed before or after carbonizing and calcining, or during the temperature up process before graphitizing. In these cases, thermal treatment is executed for graphitizing under the condition of the powder.

However, in order to obtain the graphite powder volume density and destructive strength of which is high, it is preferable to mold the raw material and execute thermal treatment, and crush and classify the obtained graphitized molded body for black lead.

That is, in order to made the graphitized molded body, molding is executed by mixing coke which is feeler and binder pitch which is molding agent or sintering agent. After executing the thermal treatment to the molded body at the low temperature less than 1000°C , the pitch impregnation/sintering process to impregnate the melted binder pitch is repeated several times, then, the thermal treatment is executed at the high temperature. The impregnated binder pitch is carbonized at the thermal treatment process as above mentioned and is graphitized. The obtained graphitized

molded body is crushed for the graphite powder.

In the crushed powder of the graphitized molded body obtained as above mentioned, the volume density and the destructive strength is high and it is possible to obtain the high quality electrode.

Further, as filler (coke) and the binder pitch is used for the raw materials, graphitizing is executed as many crystal-line, sulphur and nitrogen included in the raw materials occurs as gas during the thermal treatment, therefore, micro holes are formed on its way. When the holes are formed, reaction of the negative electrode, that is, it is easy to progress doping and dedopping reaction. Further, when there are the holes, there is also an advantage that treatment efficiency is industrially high.

Further, as the raw material of the mold body, the filler having molding and sintering property may be used. In this case, it is not necessary to use the binder pitch.

As the negative electrode material, it is possible to use metal oxide possible to dope and dedope lithium ions as well as the carbon material.

As the metal oxide, oxide including transition metal is the preferable, and specifically ion oxide, ruthenium oxide, molybdenum oxide, tungsten oxide, titanium oxide, tin oxide, crystalline compounds, non-crystalline compounds are given. It is preferable to use things that charging/discharging potential is approximately that of metal Li.

Next, the material of the positive electrode will be described.

It is preferable that the material of the positive electrode includes sufficient amount of Li, for example, compounds of metal oxide including Lithium and transition metals shown by, for example, a general chemical formula LiMO_2 (however, M means at least one of Co, Ni, Mn, Fe, Al, V and Ti) and layer phase compounds including Li and so on.

Particularly, in order to achieve high capacity, the positive electrode is necessary to include Li corresponding to the charged and discharged capacity more than 250 mAh per the carbon material 1 g at the stationary state (for example, after repeating to charge and discharge about five times), and it is preferable to include Li corresponding to the charged and discharged capacity more than 300 mAh.

Li is not always supplied all from the positive electrode, that is, Li corresponding to the charged and discharged capacity more than 250 mAh per the carbon material 1 g in may be in the cell system. Amount of Li in the cell system is judged by measuring the discharged capacity of the cell.

Examples

Embodiments of the present invention will be described according to the results of experiments.

Structure of Cell Made

A structure of a cell made in each Example as below mentioned is shown in Fig. 3.

This non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell, as shown in Fig. 3, is put in a cell can 5 under the condition that a negative electrode 1 that negative electrode active material is applied to a current collecting body 10 of the negative electrode and a positive electrode 2 that positive electrode active material is applied to a current collecting body 11 of the positive electrode are wound through a separator 3 and insulators 4 are installed on the upper and the lower part of the wound body.

A cell cap 7 is installed by being held through a sealing gasket 6 on the cell can 5 as above mentioned, they are electrically connected through the negative lead 12 and the positive lead 13 with the negative electrode 1 or the positive electrode 2 respectively, and are formed to function as the negative and the positive electrode of the cell.

In the cell according to the present invention, the positive electrode lead 13 is welded to a thin plate 8 for shielding an electric current, and is connected electrically through the thin plate 8 for shielding the electric current and a heat sensitive resistance element (PTC element) 9 with the cell cap 7.

In the cell having the structure as above mentioned, when pressure in the cell is up, the thin plate 8 for shielding the electric current is pushed up and deformed. Then, the positive electrode lead 13 is cut except a part welded to the thin plate 8 for shielding the electric current, and the electric current is shielded.

Example 1

First, negative electrode active material was composed as follows.

30 weight parts of coal tar class pitch which was a binder was added to 100 weight parts of coal class coke which was filler, after mixing them at the temperature of about 100°C, a precursor of a molded body of carbon was obtained by compression molding by a press.

Next, the molded body of carbon material was made by executing thermal treatment to the precursor at the temperature lower than 1000°C. The pitch impregnating/calcinating process that binder pitch melted at the temperature lower than 200°C was impregnated to the molded body of the carbon material and thermal treatment was executed at

the temperature lower than 1000°C was repeatedly performed.

After that, a graphitized molded body was made by executing the thermal treatment to the molded body of carbon at the temperature 2700°C under inactive atmosphere to the molded body of carbon, and graphite sample powder is made by crushing and classifying it.

5 Material values of the graphite material obtained then are shown as follows.

Surface Interval of (002) Surface : 0.337 nm

Thickness of Crystallite in the Direction of C Axis of (002) Surface : 50.0 nm

Actual Density : 2.23 g/cm³

10 Volume Density : 0.83 g/cm³

Mean Form Parameter X ave : 10

Specific Surface Area : 4.4 m²/g

Degree of Grain :

15 Mean Grain Size : 31.2 µm

Accumulation 10 grain size % : 12.3 µm

Accumulation 50 grain size % : 29.5 µm

Accumulation 90 grain size % : 53.7 µm

Mean Value of Destructive Strength of Grain : 7.1 kgf/mm²

20 The surface interval of the (002) surface of the thickness of the crystallite in the direction of the C Axis of the (002) surface were measured by X-ray diffraction measuring method, the actual density was measured by the picnometer method, the specific surface area was measured by the BET method, and the degree of grains were measured by the distribution of the grain sizes by the laser diffraction method respectively.

25 A negative electrode 1 is made as the graphite sample powder obtained as above mentioned was the negative electrode active material.

First, the negative electrode binding agent was prepared by mixing 90 weight parts of the graphite sample powder with 10 weight parts of polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) as binding agent, and negative electrode binding agent slurry (paste) was prepared by dispersing it to N-methylpyrrolidone which was a solvent.

30 Next, a belt type copper film which was 10 µm thick was prepared as a negative electrode current collecting body 10, after uniformly applying and drying the negative electrode binding agent slurry as above mentioned on both surfaces of the negative electrode current collecting body 10, the belt type negative electrode 1 was made by compression molding at the fixed pressure.

On one hand, positive electrode active material was made as follows.

35 0.5 mol of Lithium carbonate is mixed with 1 mol of cobalt carbonate, the mixture of them was calcinated in air at the temperature of 900°C for five hours. X-ray diffraction measuring was executed to the obtained material. A result was properly agreed with the peak of LiCoO₂ registered in the JCPDS file.

By crushing LiCoO₂, powder of LiCoO₂ that accumulation 50 grain size % obtained by the laser diffraction method was 15 µm was obtained.

40 Further, 95 weight parts of LiCoO₂ powder were mixed with 5 weight parts of Lithium carbonate powder, the positive electrode binding agent was prepared by mixing 91 weight parts of them with 6 weight parts of scaly graphite as conductive agent with 3 weight parts of polyvinylidene fluoride as the binder, and the positive electrode binding agent slurry (paste) was prepared by dispersing it to N-methylpyrrolidone.

45 Next, a belt type copper film which was 20 µm thick was prepared as a positive electrode current collecting body 11, after uniformly applying the positive electrode binding agent slurry as above mentioned on both surfaces of the positive electrode current collecting body 11 and drying it, the belt type positive electrode 2 was made by compression molding.

The belt type negative electrode 1 and the belt type positive electrode 2 made as above mentioned, as shown in Fig. 3, were wound many times after accumulating the negative electrode 1, a separator 3, the positive electrode 2 and separator 3 in order through the separators which are formed by polypropylene film having many minute holes which were 25 µm thick as shown in Fig. 3, and a whirlpool type electrode body the outer diameter of which was 18 mm was made.

The whirlpool type electrode body made as above mentioned was put in a cell can 5 made by iron plated with nickel.

55 An insulating plate 4 is installed on both the upper and the lower surface of the whirl type electrode, and a positive electrode lead 13 made of aluminum was protruded from the positive electrode electric current collecting body 11 and welded to the thin plate for shielding the electric current, and a negative electrode lead 12 made of aluminum was protruded from the negative electrode electric current collecting body 10 and welded to the cell can 5.

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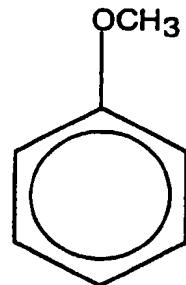
On one hand, electrolyte was prepared by adding a monomethoxy benzene class compound to the solvent that ethylene carbonate was mixed with and dimethyl carbonate by the equal volume at the concentration of 0.05 M, and by dissolving LiPF₆ at the concentration of 1 mol/l. Then the electrolyte was poured into the cell can 5. The monomethoxy benzene class compound used here was shown by Chemical Formula 11.

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[Chemical Formula 11]

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Next, by holding the cell can 5 through the shielded sealing gasket 6 to the surface of which asphalt was applied, a safety valve apparatus 8 having a current shielding mechanism, PTC element 9 and the cell cap 7 were fixed, air tightness was maintained in the cell and a cylindrical non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell the diameter of which was 18 mm and which was 65 mm high.

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Examples 2 through 9

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A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell was made similarly to Example 1 except using things as shown by Chemical Formula 12 through 19 as monomethoxy benzene class compounds were added to electrolyte.

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[Chemical Formula 12]

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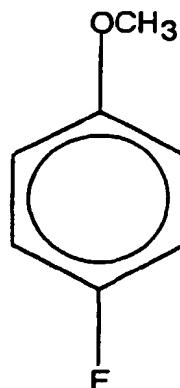
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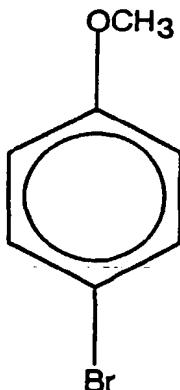
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[Chemical Formula 13]



[Chemical Formula 14]

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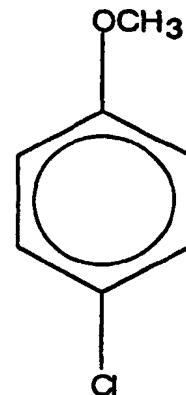
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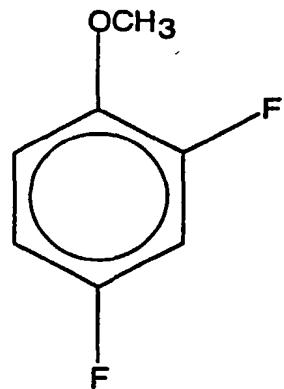
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[Chemical Formula 15]

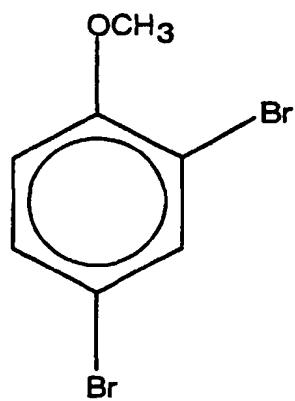


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[Chemical Formula 17]

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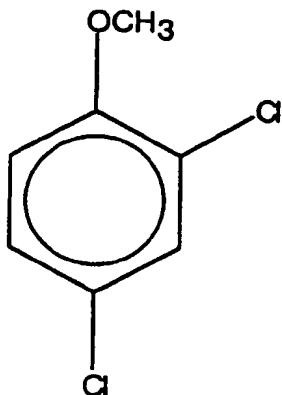
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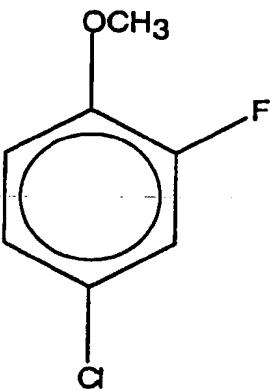
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55 Comparative Example 1

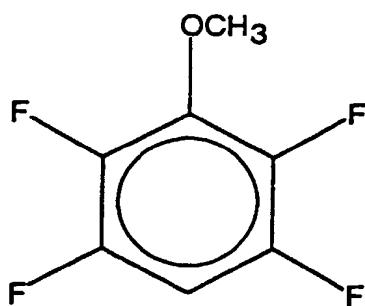
A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell was made similarly to Example 1 except not adding monomethoxy benzene class compounds to electrolyte.



[Chemical Formula 18]



[Chemical Formula 19]



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Charging/discharging efficiency and capacity maintenance factor before and after preserving were measured by charging and discharging the cell made as above mentioned.

Charging and discharging was executed under the conditions of discharging to the stop voltage 2.75 V by the fixed current 0.5 A after charging for 4 hours at the constant electronic current 0.5 A and the maximum voltage 4.2V.

5 The cell was preserved at 23°C for one month in measuring the capacity maintenance factor.

The charging/discharging efficiency and the capacity maintenance factor were found according to the following expressions.

$$10 \text{ Charging/Discharging Efficiency (\%)} = (\text{Discharged Capacity}/\text{Charged Capacity}) \times 100$$

$$10 \text{ Capacity Maintenance Factor (\%)} = (\text{Capacity After Preserving}/\text{Capacity Before Preserving}) \times 100$$

The measured charged capacity, the charging/discharging efficiency and the capacity maintenance factor are shown in Table 1.

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[Table 1]

	Additional Compounds	Addition (M)
Example 1	Chemical Formula 11	0.05
Example 2	Chemical Formula 12	0.05
Example 3	Chemical Formula 13	0.05
Example 4	Chemical Formula 14	0.05
Example 5	Chemical Formula 15	0.05
Example 6	Chemical Formula 16	0.05
Example 7	Chemical Formula 17	0.05
Example 8	Chemical Formula 18	0.05
Example 9	Chemical Formula 19	0.05
Comparative Example 1	Nothing	0

	Before preserving for one month at 23°C		Capacity Maintenance Factor After preserving for one month at 23°C (%)
	Capacity (mAh)	Charging/ discharging Efficiency (%)	
Example 1	1527	89	92

5	Example 2	1532	90	94
10	Example 3	1530	88	92
15	Example 4	1533	90	93
20	Example 5	1526	89	92
25	Example 6	1528	88	92
30	Example 7	1531	90	93
35	Example 8	1527	89	92
40	Example 9	1534	91	94
45	Comparative Example 1	1510	86	88

As shown in Table 1, in any of the cells in Examples 1 through 9 that the monomethoxy benzene class compounds are added to the electrolyte, the capacity, the charging/discharging efficiency and the capacity maintenance factor are larger than those of the cell in Comparative Example 1 that the monomethoxy benzene class compounds are not added to the electrolyte.

Therefore it is understood that when the monomethoxy benzene class compounds are added to the electrolyte, performance of the cell is improved. Because it is considered that the monomethoxy benzene class compounds added to the electrolyte have an effect on preventing irreversible reaction of the electrode caused during charging.

30 Examination of Addition of Monomethoxy benzene Class Compounds

A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell was made similarly to Example 1 except by using the compounds as shown in Chemical Formula 11, 12 or 15 as the monomethoxy benzene class compounds for the electrolyte and changing the addition as shown in Table 2 (Experimental Examples 1 through 17).

35 The capacity, the charging/discharging efficiency and the capacity maintenance factor of the cell made as above mentioned were similarly measured. The result is shown in Table 2 with the kinds and the addition of the monomethoxy benzene class compounds. Further, the relation between the addition and capacity of these compounds is shown in Fig. 4, the relation between the addition and the charging/discharging efficiency is shown in Fig. 5 and the relation between the addition and the capacity maintenance factor is shown in Fig. 6.

40 In order to compare, a non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell was made by using 1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorovenzene or 1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorovenzene except monomethoxy benzene (Comparative Experimental Examples 1 through 8). The capacity, the charging/discharging efficiency and the capacity maintenance factor were measured. The results are shown with the addition of the compounds in Table 2. Further, the relation between the addition and the capacity of these compounds is shown in Fig. 4, the relation between the addition and the charging/discharging efficiency of the compounds is shown in Fig. 5 and the relation between the addition and the capacity maintenance factor of the compounds is shown in Fig. 6.

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[Table 2]

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	Additional Compounds	Addition (M)
Experimental Example 1	Chemical Formula 11	0.005
Experimental Example 2	Chemical Formula 11	0.05
Experimental Example 3	Chemical Formula 11	0.10
Experimental Example 4	Chemical Formula 11	0.20
Experimental Example 5	Chemical Formula 11	0.30
Experimental Example 6	Chemical Formula 11	0.50
Experimental Example 7	Chemical Formula 12	0.02
Experimental Example 8	Chemical Formula 12	0.05
Experimental Example 9	Chemical Formula 12	0.10
Experimental Example 10	Chemical Formula 12	0.30
Experimental Example 11	Chemical Formula 12	0.50
Experimental Example 12	Chemical Formula 12	0.80
Experimental Example 13	Chemical Formula 15	0.05
Experimental Example 14	Chemical Formula 15	0.10

5	Experimental Example 15	Chemical Formula 15	0.30
10	Experimental Example 16	Chemical Formula 15	0.60
15	Experimental Example 17	Chemical Formula 15	1.00
20	Experimental Comparative Example 1	1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorobenzene	0.1
25	Experimental Comparative Example 2	1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorobenzene	0.3
30	Experimental Comparative Example 3	1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorobenzene	0.5
35	Experimental Comparative Example 4	1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorobenzene	0.8
40	Experimental Comparative Example 5	1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorobenzene	0.1
45	Experimental Comparative Example 6	1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorobenzene	0.3
50	Experimental Comparative Example 7	1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorobenzene	0.5
55	Experimental Comparative Example 8	1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorobenzene	0.8

	Before preserving for one month at 23°C		Capacity Maintenance Factor After preserving for one month at 23°C (%)	
	Capacity (mAh)	Charging/ discharging Efficiency (%)		
5	Experimental Example 1	1525	88	91
10	Experimental Example 2	1527	89	92
15	Experimental Example 3	1531	89	92
20	Experimental Example 4	1530	88	91
25	Experimental Example 5	1526	87	91
30	Experimental Example 6	1520	86	90
35	Experimental Example 7	1525	89	92
40	Experimental Example 8	1532	90	94
45	Experimental Example 9	1534	90	93
50	Experimental Example 10	1537	88	93
	Experimental Example 11	1531	87	91
	Experimental Example 12	1523	86	90
	Experimental Example 13	1526	89	92
	Experimental Example 14	1535	91	95

5	Experimental Example 15	1541	91	93
10	Experimental Example 16	1526	89	92
15	Experimental Example 17	1520	87	92
20	Experimental Comparative Example 1	1515	87	89
25	Experimental Comparative Example 2	1513	86	89
30	Experimental Comparative Example 3	1510	84	88
35	Experimental Comparative Example 4	1506	83	88
40	Experimental Comparative Example 5	1513	86	89
45	Experimental Comparative Example 6	1512	85	88
50	Experimental Comparative Example 7	1511	85	87
55	Experimental Comparative Example 8	1505	84	87

Seeing the case of adding the monomethoxy benzene class compounds to the electrolyte in Fig. 4 through 6, it is understood that the characteristic values are changed depending on the addition. That is, these characteristic values are increased depending on increasing of the addition up to some value and are decreased depending on increasing of the addition after some value.

When the addition of the monomethoxy benzene class compounds is within the range from 0.005 to 0.9 M, further, from 0.005 to 0.5 M, it is possible to obtain the superior characteristic comparing to the case that the monomethoxy benzene class compounds are not added. Thus, it is understood that the addition of the monomethoxy benzene class compounds may be within the range from 0.005 to 0.9 M, more preferably, from 0.005 to 0.5 M.

5 Here, in order to compare, the characteristic of the case that 1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorobenzene or 1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorobenzene is added to the electrolyte is also evaluated. In this case, though the characteristic is barely advanced by adding a very small amount of these compounds, the characteristic is degraded rather than before. Therefore, it is understood that 1, 2-dimethoxy-4-phlorobenzene or 1, 4-dimethoxy-2-phlorobenzene are not suitable for the addition for adding to the electrolyte.

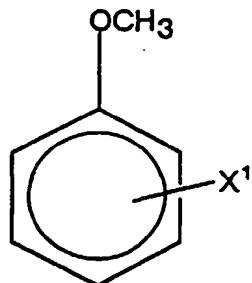
Claims

1. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell comprising:

10 a negative electrode that are possible to dope/dedope lithium and a positive electrode and a non-aqueous electrolyte that electrolyte is dissolved in a non-aqueous solvent, wherein monomethoxy benzene or at least any of monomethoxy benzene class compounds as shown by Chemical Formula 1, 2 and 3 are added to said non-aqueous electrolyte at the concentration from 0.005 M to 0.9 M.

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[Chemical Formula 1]



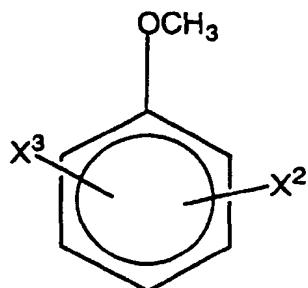
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(Where, X¹ is a halogen element.)

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[Chemical Formula 2]



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(Where, X² and X³ are halogen elements.)

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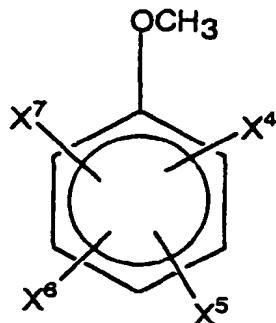
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[Chemical Formula 3]

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(Where, x^4 , x^5 , x^6 and x^7 are halogen elements.)

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2. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 1, wherein said positive electrode comprises lithium transition metals compound oxide shown by LiMO_2 (Where, M is at least one kind of Co, Ni, Mn, Fe, Al, V and Ti).
- 25 3. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 1, wherein said negative electrode comprises carbon material.
4. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 3, wherein said carbon material is graphite material or non-graphitizable carbon material.
- 30 5. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 4, wherein said graphite material is that actual density is more than 2.1 g/cm^3 , a surface interval of (002) surface is from 0.335 to 0.337 nm, thickness of crystallite in the direction of C axis of (002) surface is more than 14.0 nm.
- 35 6. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 4, wherein said non-graphitizable carbon material is that a surface interval of (002) surface is more than 0.37 nm, actual density is less than 1.70 g/cm^3 and does not have a peak for generating heat higher than 700 in differential thermal analysis in the air.
- 40 7. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 1, wherein said negative electrode comprises crystalline or non-crystalline metallic chalcognide.
8. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 1, wherein a electrolyte dissolves lithium salt in non-aqueous solvents comprising at least either high permittivity solvents or low viscosity solvents.
- 45 9. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 8, wherein high permittivity solvents are at least one compound selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, butylene carbonate, vinylene carbonate, suforane acid, butyrolactone acid and valerolactone acid.
- 50 10. A non-aqueous electrolyte secondary cell according to claim 8, wherein said low viscosity solvents are at least one compound selected from the group consisting of diethyl carbonate, dimethyl carbonate, ethyl-methyl carbonate, methyl propyl carbonate, methyl propionate, ethyl propionate, trimethyl phosphate, triethyl phosphate.

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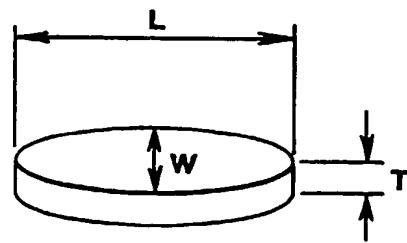


FIG.1

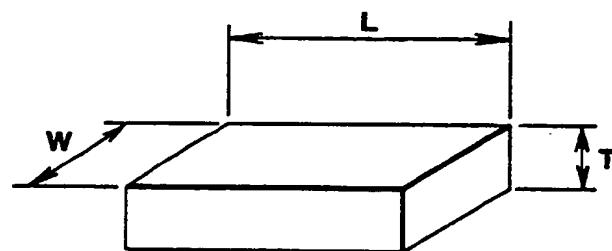


FIG.2

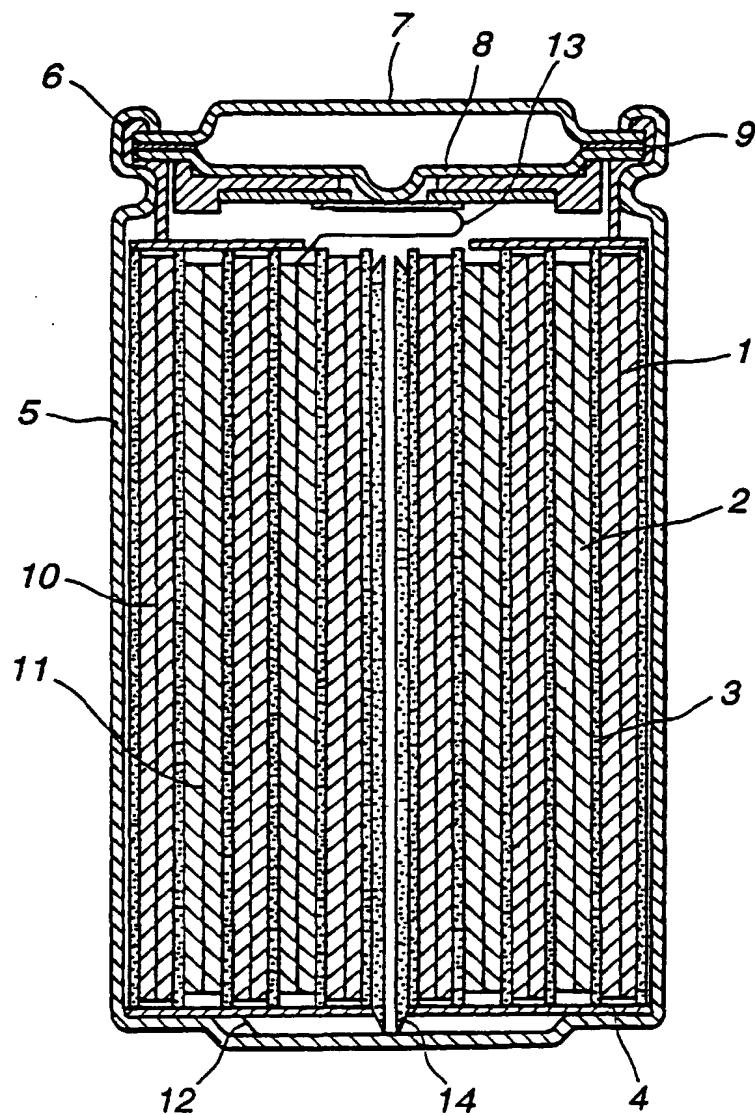


FIG.3

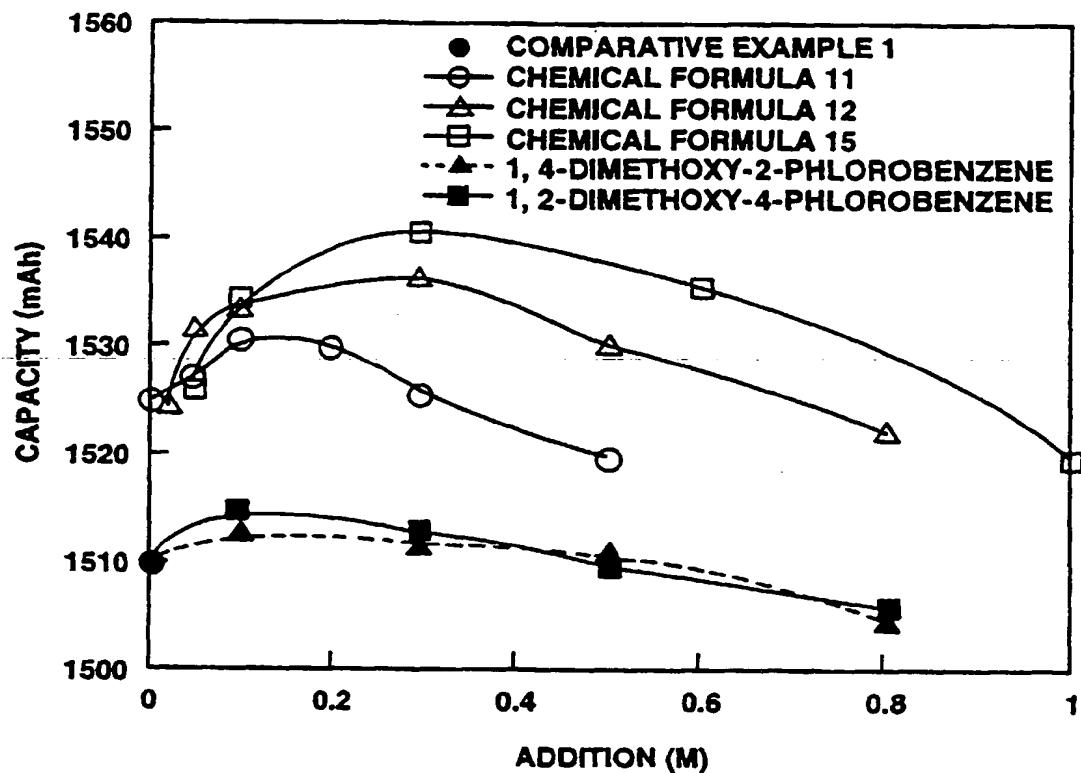


FIG.4

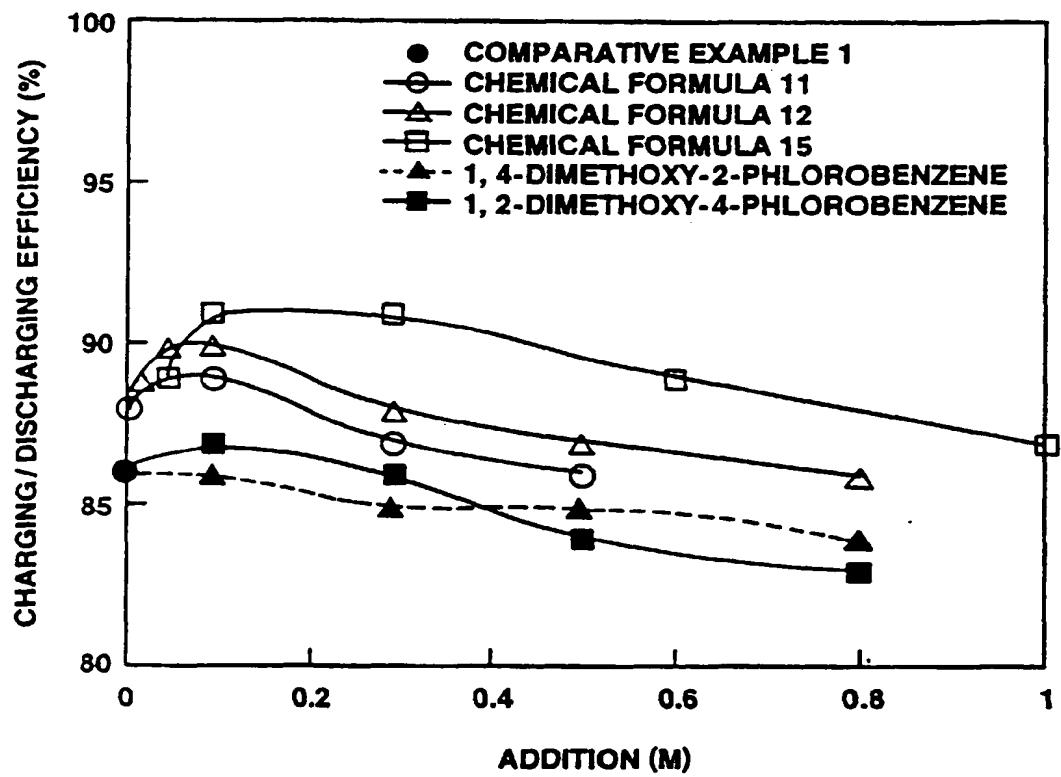


FIG.5

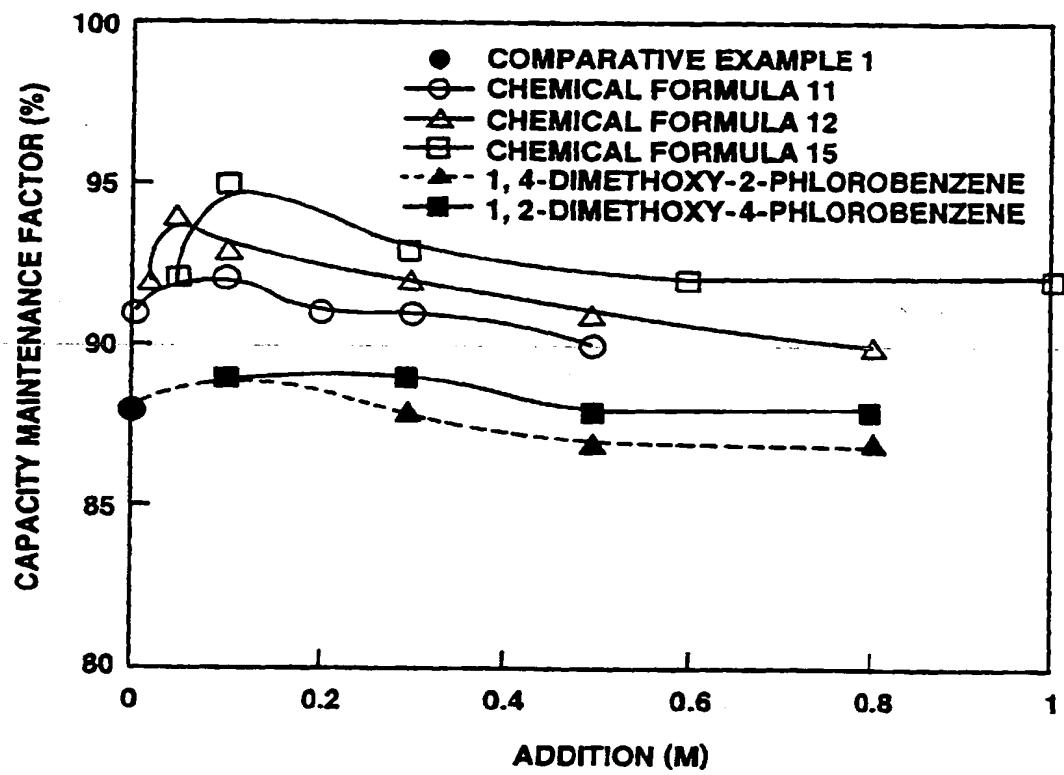


FIG.6



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 97 12 2851

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim			
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 502 (E-0997), 2 November 1990 & JP 02 207464 A (SHOWA DENKO KK;OTHERS: 01), 17 August 1990, * abstract *	1	H01M10/40		
Y	---	2-10			
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 014, no. 502 (E-0997), 2 November 1990 & JP 02 207465 A (SHOWA DENKO KK;OTHERS: 01), 17 August 1990, * abstract *	1			
Y	---	2-10			
D,X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 015, no. 345 (C-0864), 3 September 1991 & JP 03 137010 A (SONY CORP), 11 June 1991, * abstract *	1-6			
Y	---	7-10	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)		
X	EP 0 418 514 A (SONY CORP) * page 5, line 6-12 *	1-10	H01M		
X	EP 0 347 952 A (ALLIED SIGNAL INC) * page 3, line 50 - page 4, line 38 *	1-10			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
MUNICH	24 February 1998	Engl, H			
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